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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Item 179 of the preliminary list*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 18 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to a grave act of terrorism perpetrated this afternoon in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya.

At approximately 12 p.m. (local time), a 20-year-old Palestinian from the nearby town of Tulkarm approached the entrance of a crowded shopping mall and detonated powerful explosives that were strapped to his body. Six Israelis were killed in the blast and over 40 others were injured; scores of others suffered from shock. The attack occurred at the peak of the Friday afternoon shopping hour, when Israelis crowd markets and shopping centres in preparation for the Jewish Sabbath that begins at sundown.

In yet another incident today, Palestinian forces opened fire on an Israeli vehicle travelling in the vicinity of Neveh Tzuf. One Israeli civilian was killed, and the victim's mother was critically injured.

These attacks are merely the latest incidents in the Palestinian terrorist campaign against Israel which has been detailed in my letters dated 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065). Eighty-nine Israelis have been killed since the outbreak of hostilities in late September.

* A/56/50.

01-37804 (E) 180501

The Government of Israel holds the Palestinian Authority responsible for both of today's attacks. For nearly eight months, the Palestinian Authority has not only failed to rein in terrorist groups, but has in fact encouraged and abetted their activities. Scores of Palestinian terrorists have been released from prisons, including many who had been involved in murders of Israeli civilians. Terrorist groups have been granted nearly complete freedom of movement and action and are free to carry out attacks with impunity. The Palestinian leadership has made it clear, both in word and in deed, that attacks on Israelis can be perpetrated without any fear of punishment or incarceration.

The Palestinian leadership has also perpetuated a relentless campaign of incitement and hate propaganda in the Palestinian media and educational institutions. Just recently, the American television network MSNBC reported on initiatives to recruit children for participation in confrontations with Israeli troops. A commercial on the official Palestinian television station, specifically targeted to Palestinian youngsters, calls on them to "drop their toys, pick up rocks, and do battle with Israel".

Other examples abound. On 7 May 2001, the Palestinian daily *Al-Iyyam* printed a religious ruling of the Palestinian Religious Council which legitimized suicide attacks against "the Israeli enemy" as permissible under Islamic law, granting them the status of "shahid" (martyr). The Palestinian Minister of Religious and Endowment Affairs (The *wakf*), in an interview on Egyptian television on 29 April 2001, stated: "These suicide attacks are a legitimate means for Palestinians fighting the enemy. Their purpose is to serve Allah, and by these attacks they are fighting on behalf of Allah and on behalf of the Islamic faith and the homeland. The attacks are the judgment of Allah."

It is clear that the Palestinian Authority is practicing a subtle "division of labour" with Hamas and Islamic Jihad. On the one hand, the Palestinian Authority is trying to preserve its international stature as a credible partner for dialogue, while simultaneously unleashing Hamas and Islamic Jihad and other extremist organizations on Israeli citizens. Such duplicity is utterly unacceptable.

It must be recalled that Chairman Arafat's commitment of 9 September 1993 was not only to renounce terrorism, but also to control and discipline all Palestinian factions that engage in this practice. The position of the Palestinian Authority throughout the last several months of hostilities represents a grave violation of this commitment.

Israel remains committed to pursuing every avenue for a renewal of negotiations. However, peace cannot be advanced while terrorist bombings of Israeli civilians continue, and while the Palestinian leadership continues to foster an atmosphere of hate in which intolerable acts of terrorism are an acceptable pattern of behaviour.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 179 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/79

General Assembly

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18 May 2001

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Fifty-sixth session
Items 37, 40 and 130 of the preliminary list*

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Letter dated 18 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to some shocking statements made recently by the President of Syria, Bashar Al-Assad, and other high-ranking Syrian officials.

On the occasion of the recent visit of Pope John Paul II to Syria, the Syrian President delivered an anti-Semitic diatribe at the welcoming ceremony held at the Damascus airport on 5 May 2001. In his speech, President Assad denounced the "treacherous Jewish mentality" and accused the Jewish people of killing the principles of the divine faiths, of betraying and torturing Jesus Christ, and of committing treachery against the Prophet Muhammad. He further encouraged Christians and Muslims to make common cause against the Jews. Two days earlier, on 3 May 2001, during an official visit to Spain, President Assad justified an earlier comparison he had made in which he asserted that Israel was even more racist than the Nazis.

Other Syrian officials went even further. The Minister of Defence, Mustapha Tlass, stated on LBC television on 5 May 2001 that if "every Arab killed a Jew, no Jews would remain", and that he wanted "to kill any Jew he faced". The Syrian Grand Mufti blamed Israel for damaging mosques and carrying out "barbaric massacres" in a statement carried on Damascus Radio on 6 May 2001.

These statements, and scores of others made recently by various Syrian officials and religious figures, represent the vilest form of racism and anti-Semitism. Such incitement is fundamentally opposed to the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the basic principles of the peace process. President Assad's outrageous claims are an affront to the Jewish tradition — the oldest of the three great monotheistic faiths — and serve to reinforce his reputation for irresponsible and inflammatory leadership.

* A/56/50.

01-37798 (E) 180501

Anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism — two terms that are distinct yet hardly different — have scarcely been confined to Syria; the use of vicious propaganda and incitement against Israel exist in some other Arab States as well. Particularly disturbing is the revival of stereotypical Jewish caricatures, reminiscent of the anti-Semitic Nazi publication *Der Sturmer* ("The Attacker"), as well as of the ancient slander known as the "blood libel", whereby Jews were falsely accused of using the blood of non-Jews to bake matzah for the holiday of Passover.

Even in the United Nations, there has been a renewal of the type of anti-Zionist rhetoric we had hoped had been eliminated. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Isa Ayad Babaa, speaking before the Security Council on 15 March 2001, equated the practices of the Israel Defence Forces with those of the Nazis. During that same meeting, the Permanent Representative of Iraq called Zionism a "racist creed".

These are but a small sample of the scores of statements made in newspapers, and on the radio and television, which set forth racist notions of the Jewish people and recall the darkest period of Jewish history in Europe. The word "anti-Semitism" itself was coined in 1879 by the German agitator Wilhelm Marr to designate the anti-Jewish campaigns under way in central Europe at that time and has since come to refer to any manner of hostility towards or discrimination against Jews as a group. In this regard, it is worth recalling that the great catastrophe perpetrated against the Jewish people in the last century began with defamation. A more recent manifestation is the alarming number of violent anti-Semitic acts against Jews and Jewish institutions around the world that have increased in concert with the pitch of anti-Semitic rhetoric worldwide.

As the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization states in its preamble, "wars begin in the minds of men". By the same token, racism, racial discrimination, religious intolerance, prejudice and bigotry also start in the minds of men. Consequently, racist verbal violence cannot and should not be dismissed as inconsequential: racist physical violence has invariably been preceded by racist verbal violence. Particularly with regard to anti-Semitism, the fallacious distinction between words and actions is demonstrably inapplicable.

In particular, I have repeatedly drawn attention to the contemptible role of Palestinian media incitement, as well as to the hate education and demonizing of Israelis and Jews that takes place in Palestinian educational institutions, in agitating the population and impelling it to violence. The anti-Semitic incidents that have occurred in France, Belgium, Britain, Germany and elsewhere cannot be divorced from the campaign of horror propaganda orchestrated against Israel and the Jewish people, a campaign that has played a pivotal role in creating the atmosphere in which such intolerable attacks can be conceived and executed.

As an Organization that was created in the wake of the horrific genocide of the Nazi Holocaust, and that is charged with ensuring that such heinous crimes do not recur, the United Nations, in keeping with its mandate as delineated in its Charter, must loudly condemn the rising global scourge of anti-Semitism. In particular, when such abominable language is uttered in the halls of the United Nations itself, this serves only to degrade the Organization and the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter. It is essential that the ugly and vicious anti-Semitic rhetoric at the United Nations and elsewhere be confronted without delay, in a firm and unambiguous manner.

I also wish to take this opportunity to appeal to you to utilize your moral authority and denounce anti-Semitic rhetoric from whichever sectors it originates.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under items 37, 40 and 130 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/80–S/2001/524

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Item 179 of the preliminary list*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 25 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest developments in the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign against Israel.

Earlier today, a car bomb exploded in the vicinity of the central bus station in the Israeli city of Hadera. Sixty-six were wounded in the blast, among them an 8-month-old baby and a 10-year-old boy. Hadera was the site of a bus bombing last November in which 2 Israelis were killed and more than 60 wounded and to which I referred in my letter dated 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114).

On Wednesday evening, 23 May 2001, two Israelis — Asher Iluz, age 33, and Yitzhak Goldstein, age 29 — were travelling on a dirt road near the village of Isaskar when three Palestinian terrorists ambushed their vehicle, spraying it with bullets. Iluz later died of his wounds and Goldstein was lightly injured.

In addition, Palestinian gunmen persist in their attacks on the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Gilo, and for the first time fired on the nearby neighbourhood of Malha, one kilometre to the west. George Sportas, an 86-year-old Gilo resident, was seriously wounded outside his home on Wednesday afternoon, after being shot in the chest.

All these attacks come after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced that Israeli forces would halt all operational actions against the Palestinians and would henceforth open fire only in case of an immediate threat. This step, taken pursuant to the Mitchell Committee's report, is intended as an initial step towards quelling the violence, restoring mutual trust and bringing about a return to negotiations. The Palestinian side responded negatively to the Prime Minister's initiative, referring to it as a public relations ploy, and persisted in their attacks, which have claimed the life of one Israeli and injured scores of others in the days following the announcement.

* A/56/50.

01-38674 (E) 290501

I should like to recall my previous letters, which detail the ongoing terrorist campaign against Israel, dated 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

For the Palestinians to continue to denounce Israel's conduct, at the same time that they have made clear that they have no interest in responding positively to Israel's initiative for a cessation of violence, is duplicitous and reprehensible. The Palestinian campaign of incitement continues unabated, as do the activities of terrorist organizations, against whom the Palestinian leadership has taken no action. Despite signed commitments obliging the Palestinians to control violence and terrorism, attacks against Israelis continue to be carried out with the assistance, encouragement and even the direct and active participation of the official security forces of the Palestinian Authority.

Nonetheless, Israel continues to take steps to alleviate the conditions of the Palestinian population. Despite the considerable security risks, Israel has authorized the entry of an additional 4,000 Palestinian workers into Israel, and another 6,000 to work in industrial zones in proximity to their homes, bring the total number of work permits issued to 21,000. We are currently considering the possibility of increasing the total number of workers to 25,000, as the situation allows.

Israel accepts the Mitchell Committee's recommendation for a complete end to the violence, followed by a cooling off period, the undertaking of confidence-building measures, and finally a return to negotiations. The recent decision by the Israeli Government was intended as the first step in this regard. We call upon the Palestinian leadership to do their part, and to implement an unconditional and immediate cessation of violence.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 179 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/81–S/2001/540

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Fifth-sixth session
Item 179 of the preliminary list*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifth-sixth year

Letter dated 30 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest incidents in the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign against Israel.

Shortly after 7 a.m. (local time) yesterday morning, Gilad Zar, age 40 and father of eight children, was driving near the Gitt junction when Palestinian terrorists in a parked car shot at his windshield, causing his vehicle to overturn. Two terrorists then got out, walked to Zar's car, and shot him repeatedly in the head at point-blank range.

Several hours later, Sarah Blaustein, age 53, and Esther Alvan, age 20, were killed when terrorists opened fire on their car as they travelled to Jerusalem to attend Zar's funeral. Four other passengers who were travelling in the car were wounded and evacuated to a hospital in Jerusalem.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's own political faction, Fatah, claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Also yesterday, two terrorists wearing belts packed with explosives approached Israeli soldiers at the Tufah crossing. One of the terrorists detonated his belt as he approached and the other hurled grenades. Two soldiers were wounded and evacuated to a nearby hospital.

Yesterday's attacks come just days after two car bombs exploded several hours apart in central Jerusalem. Just after midnight (local time) this past Sunday morning, 27 May 2001, a powerful car bomb exploded in central Jerusalem. Several individuals were taken to the hospital and treated for shock. Less than nine hours later, and just 100 metres away, a second car bomb, rigged with mortars, nails, bullets and other explosive materials, exploded on Jerusalem's Jaffa Street. The

* A/56/50.

01-39255 (E) 010601

force of the blast launched seven mortar shells hundreds of metres through the city centre. Several people were injured by shrapnel and glass while more than 30 others were treated for shock.

All these attacks come in the wake of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's announcement last week that Israeli Forces would unilaterally cease all military initiatives against Palestinian targets and would henceforth only open fire in self-defence. This initiative, taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee's report and intended as a first step towards the complete cessation of violence, was unequivocally rejected by the Palestinian side, which has responded by intensifying their terrorist campaign against Israel.

I should like to recall my previous letters, which detail the ongoing terrorist campaign against Israel, dated 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

Israel calls upon the Palestinian Authority to implement the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee and to abide by its commitment of 9 September 1993 to renounce the use of violence and terror and to control all Palestinian factions that engage in violent activities.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 179 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative